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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5     1.     A process for preparing 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine  
         comprising the step of reacting lithiated veratrole with 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde in the  
         presence of a suitable aprotic solvent.
2.     The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is toluene.
- 10     3.     The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is a mixture of toluene  
         and tetrahydrofuran.
4.     The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is a mixture of toluene  
15     and hexane.
5.     A compound which is 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine.

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